

# LINE COPY



Volume III, 2002    Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department



Fairfax County Public Safety Center 9-11 Remembrance Observance held September 11, 2002



Edward L. Stinnette

***"Teamwork and shared leadership are core values that reinforce the Department's belief that all individuals have the capacity to lead and that we value leadership at all levels."***

## From The Fire Chief . . .

**I**t has been a year since that tragic date of September 11, 2001. A day that I know you will always remember for the great sacrifices made by a lot of courageous firefighters, the heartrending deaths of thousands of innocent civilians, and the shocking reality of just how vulnerable we are to terrorist acts. It also was a day that the character of a lot of leaders rose to the surface. There were leaders that helped control panic, organized rescue and recovery efforts, and focus limited resources and attention to timely and critical needs.

Leadership is one of the most important traits of character that a person can possess. However, some folks have the mistaken belief that the ability to lead is reserved only for those in the upper echelons of business or management. Leadership is not just guiding and directing people or managing projects or critical programs, it is having the ability to influence those around us to succeed. Leadership isn't inherited, purchased, or merely memorized from a book. It is a mindset, a belief, a daring and controlled explosion of energy that allows any individual to manage a given situation and to focus ones energy to controlling the situation. Every one of you has these leadership traits.

Teamwork and shared leadership are core values that reinforce the Department's belief that all individuals have the capacity to lead and that we value leadership at all levels. By practicing shared leadership we will find the best

solution to many issues and hopefully recognize and create a culture that will seek and value the opinions of our members.

Leadership is an attribute practiced by retired General Colin Powell who served during the Gulf War as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and now serves as U.S. Secretary of State. I recall a statement that Secretary Powell once made where he said, "Good leadership involves responsibility to the welfare of the group, which means that some people will get angry at your actions and decisions. It's inevitable, if you're honorable." Leadership has to do with making choices and most often, those choices are difficult.

Every member of our Department has leadership ability. Members of the Fire and Rescue Department work in an environment where the best, the brightest, and the most creative personnel are attracted and retained, and most importantly, where individual talents are unleashed. As leaders you are encouraged to create a climate where an individual's worth is determined by their willingness to learn new skills and grab new responsibilities, thus perpetually reinventing our work environment. I also encourage you to learn from your co-workers, observe them, and seek them out as mentors and partners. Together, we can maintain and enhance our Department's core values by fostering leadership attributes that continually challenge the process until service with excellence is the only way we do business. ♦

Edward L. Stinnette, *Fire Chief*  
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# From The Editor . . .



The core value “effective communication” is often viewed as the lifeblood of an organization and its people. It keeps people moving in the right direction, with the proper focus, and hopefully it promotes trust, teamwork, and happiness within the organization. When we talk about “effective communication” as a core value; we say it is essential to the cohesiveness and performance of our organization. And, we are committed to providing effective and responsive means of communication throughout the organization and the community.

Inherently, people as a whole want to know what is going on, have input on the job, receive and generate feedback, and generally have some opportunity to communicate with people up and down the chain of supervision. It's really a fairly simple process, however, it sometimes is difficult to accomplish and do well. Communication is sometimes hard, time-consuming, and risky.

An employee at America Online recently said, that if management had kept her and her colleagues up to date on happenings before and after the merger with Time Warner Inc., AOL likely would have much happier employees. The lesson learned is: the less the front-line employees were told, the more the rumors flew. People generally want and need to communicate, but oftentimes we're caught up with other priorities or don't think that someone else has a need to know.

Up to 76 percent of employees leave their jobs because of communication problems, according to Steven Gaffney, author of “Just Be Honest: Authentic Communication Strategies That Get

Results and Last a Lifetime.” Gaffney says it is something that can have a powerful effect where it matters the most—the bottom line and its customers.

Marriott Corporation of Bethesda has tried to open the lines of communication between managers and employees. Meetings and quick chats among employees and managers help their executives assess what is going on at particular properties and what might be done to make things better.

Within the Department, I believe we have in place a culture that promotes feedback and interaction among employees, use different mediums to communicate information, and various other avenues to get that information to the decision-makers and rank and file. We try to accomplish it with personal in-station visits, teleconferences, Channel 16 video productions, timely meetings, email, pagers, cell phones, and all the other tools available to quickly and efficiently communicate.

The bottom line remains: we should all strive to get rid of the communication block, whatever that might be. Life and work would be more productive, less annoying, and simply better if everyone knew a bit about what's going on. ❖

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Fire and Rescue Department Web Site.**

**Our Web Site address is:**

**<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire>**

# The Wayne Gretzky Formula for Success: Anticipate, Prepare, Respond

By Neil Porta  
Consultant, Context Consulting

When the former all-star hockey player Wayne Gretzky was asked for the secret to his success, his reply was deceptively simple. “I skate to where I think the puck is going to be,” he said. Looking at his stellar career, it’s apparent the puck was often just where he thought it would be. Gretzky was able to accomplish what few other players have because he was able to **anticipate** what would happen before it actually occurred. That **skill** was developed through long periods of **practice with his team**, and by **understanding the context of each game** – who the individual players were on his own team and on the opposing team, and how they performed and reacted in likely situations on the ice.

The same lessons apply off the ice as well. Strategic planning in organizations, when done well, builds winning teams and an understanding of context so that the organization can anticipate likely changes in the operating environment and position itself for success. The process strengthens teams by developing a vision that expresses the shared aspirations of all teammates, and by identifying the collective values that form the foundation for the team’s decision-making. But the key concept is, without question, that of the team and Gretzky, for all his individual accomplishments, understood this better than most. Indeed, it is interesting to note, in terms of values, teamwork, and individual team member behavior, that Gretzky often led the league in number of assists.

Organizations need to approach their work with the same Gretzky-like mindset, starting with planning and practice. A review of the organization’s mission should clarify the team’s understanding of what it is they are trying to accomplish, for whom, how, and where? The understanding of context comes from a realistic

assessment of the organization, its core competencies and developmental needs in light of what is known about the external operating environment and the mix of strengths needed to operate effectively in that milieu. The assessment of operating context includes an evaluation of opportunities present in the external environment that, if pursued, would likely result in the organization’s making great strides toward achieving its vision and mission.

Questions that might be asked include:

- What are the important external issues that the organization is likely to encounter in the coming years?
- Are the environmental issues likely to change in a material way?
- What patterns are we aware of either in the intensity of a particular issue, or the relationship between issues, over time?
- If the patterns continue, what are the likely consequences for our organization if we pursue or decide not to engage an issue?
- Are there particularly difficult challenges present in either the external environment or within the organization that will act to impede its progress – how shall we address these challenges, and manage their impact on our organization?
- What other organizations do all, or part, of what we do? What are their strengths? What have they been recognized for? Are there opportunities to collaborate with other organizations in an effort to amplify the impact of our efforts?

From the assessment of environment and organizational fit, teams can determine which strategic issues they are uniquely positioned to

impact. Now the team can develop the broad strategic goals that are measurable and that, if achieved, would make significant progress toward accomplishing the collective vision. Realistic strategies can then be developed to address the issues identified. Action plans (projects or programs targeted to address the strategic issues) with measurable interim objectives can be designed to implement the plan on the ground.

In putting the plan on the ground, the development of sufficient detail for continuous tracking is critical. We hear much about the learning organization. Organizational learning comes from taking appropriate risks, and observing and documenting how actual performance differs from what was planned. Organizational capacity is developed through the team's experience over time, its understanding of the mix of organizational resources and competencies, and how those resources and competencies are best applied in a variety of environmental contexts. In other words, the learning springs from an observation and documentation of systemic details – the mix of resource inputs, processes, and the resulting outputs and outcomes – understanding what works and what doesn't in various contexts, and why.

When interviewed about his plans for D-Day, Eisenhower said, "Plans are everything until the action starts." He was referring to the ongoing need to be flexible, a skill that an army, a sports team, or any organization develops from working or playing together each day. As was the case with Gretzky and his team, an organization's ability to anticipate and position itself for success clearly comes from planning, team and individual practice, and a constant scanning of context. Effective strategic planning helps to build this ability into the culture of organizations. ❖

*(Mr. Porta is director of consulting for Context Consulting and served as the facilitator for the Fire and Rescue Department's strategic planning process.)*

## Community Outreach Highlights



*Mrs. Judy Wengrovitz, a local artist and her husband, Sy, present Captain I Larry Jenkins with a original watercolor painting to be displayed at Fire and Rescue Station 26. Mrs. Wengrovitz lives in the Station 26 first-due area and created the watercolor specifically for Station 26 personnel.*

## Child Passenger Safety Biweekly 2002 Checkpoints\*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Shift</u>	<u>Station</u>	<u>Time</u>
October 28	B	Academy	3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
November 25	A	Academy	3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
December 19	C	Academy	3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

\*The Fire and Rescue Department Child Passenger Safety Program has made significant changes to the "checkpoint" schedule for the remainder of 2002. Please make note of these changes and ensure all personnel are aware of the new schedule.



# What Do You Do?

By Master Technician John C. Mayers  
Fire and Rescue Station 21, C-Shift

**Y**ou're at the station waiting for the "Big One" when the tones go off. You pull your heart out of your throat and listen to the general announcement as you don your gear and get on the apparatus. "Engine 425, Medic 425 respond for an ALS emergency, 2286 Wingit Drive." Your mind searches its data bank for the street location but you can't bring it up. Oh yeah, that's the new housing development off Simple Way. Thinking that it's probably just another knee scrape or a construction worker with a smashed finger, you sit back and enjoy the ride. Upon arrival, you notice several construction workers waving you into an area where a backhoe is operating next to a large trench. Before you and the officer step off the engine, a worker grabs you with panic on his face, screaming to come get his buddy out of the hole. **Now, what do you do?**

There have been two dynamic trench incidents in Fairfax County in the past year with one fatality and two rescues thanks to the quick action and thinking of rescue personnel. The purpose of this article is to provide a quick overview of how to recognize and mitigate a trench incident as a first responder.

There are at least 100 active trench operations in Fairfax County on any given day. Many trench

mishaps occur daily, and usually go unreported if the injury or incident is thought to be minor in nature by the supervising foreman. Often while driving your district, or responding to actual accidents, reports of workers hooking-up pipe in deep trenches with no ladders in the trench, or worse yet, the trench box sitting on the trench lip rather than properly placed for worker safety are made.

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) reports an average of 50 worker fatalities in the United States every year. Statistics also show that 77 percent of those fatalities are construction workers, with the remaining 23 percent being other workers, including fire and rescue personnel. Trench rescue operations are lengthy; the national average time to complete a rescue or recovery is three to five hours.

In Section 650 of OSHA Regulation 29

CFR; 1926 Subpart P- Excavations, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) defines a trench as "a narrow excavation (in relation to its length) made below the surface of the ground. In general, the depth is greater than the width, but the width of the trench (measured at the bottom) is not greater than 15 feet." **OSHA mandates that any trench deeper than five feet requires shoring.** According to that standard, a cave-in is defined as "the



separation of a mass of soil or rock material from the side of an excavation, or the loss of soil from under a trench shield or support system, and its sudden movement into the excavation, either by falling or sliding, in sufficient quantity to entrap, bury, or injure and immobilize a person or persons.”

For general knowledge there are three types of soil: compact, saturated, and running. Compact is soil with a high content of clay, which has cohesive strength and is shorable with conventional methods. Saturated soil is when water can be seen seeping from the trench walls. Running soil is a separate classification of saturated soil (including sand or loose gravel) and is thought unsafe to shore using conventional methods. Both saturated and running soils will require mitigation by first cutting back to the angle of repose, employing trench shields, or the installation of engineered systems.

First arriving officers should relay trench wall observations (one or both trench walls collapsed, spoil pile slough in, or no collapse with a worker injury only) to the first arriving technical rescue company. This vital description of the trench condition as a part of your initial size-up will assist in tactical planning.

In terms of recognizing the hazards and initial management of a trench incident until additional resources arrive, the first arriving Fire and Rescue Department officer shall assume initial command of the incident as defined in the Incident Management System (IMS) manual.

Consider the following:

- Incident size-up
- Scene control
- Scene access
- Hazard identification
- Rescue, medical, and safety actions
- Request of appropriate resources

First, the emergency needs to be identified as a trench incident as defined above and this information relayed to the first arriving technical rescue company.



### Incident Size-up

- Trench size-up: Approach trench from the **END ONLY**. **Never get closer than four feet to the trench lip. Never walk on the spoil pile (excavated soil from trench) while evaluating.**
- Identify the number of trapped victims, and how they are positioned, if possible (full or partial).
- Assist injured workers and or victims who may have escaped on their own, or non-trapped workers/victims only needing a ladder for egress. Only attempt this if it is **SAFE to do so**.
- Remove onsite workers to the **COLD ZONE** and gather as much information as you can regarding the events leading up to the incident:
- Type of work being performed.
- Type of collapse: one or more trench walls, spoil pile slough in, or no collapse with a worker injury.
- Number of trapped victims and length of time trapped.
- Assess need for an interpreter if a language barrier exists.
- Obtain a site plan/blueprint for the trench site from the site foreman, if possible.
- Type of shoring used in trench, if any.
- Establish a media area in the **COLD ZONE**, and alert the Public Information Officer.



## Scene Control

- Immediately begin scene control by establishing the following safety zones: **HOT ZONE, 150 feet in all directions from the trench, followed by the WARM ZONE, 250 feet from the trench, and the COLD ZONE, 500 feet from the trench.**
- Do not place initial apparatus any closer than 150 feet to the trench (shut down apparatus as soon as possible). This is done to minimize ground vibrations that may cause a secondary collapse. Stop traffic on adjacent highways, streets, railways, etc. for a distance equal to 500 feet in all directions to minimize ground vibrations and possible secondary collapse.
- Verify all construction equipment in the **HOT ZONE** is shut down immediately. This sounds obvious, but keep in mind that most construction workers will attempt to make a rescue before you arrive.
- It may be necessary to request a Police Department response to keep construction workers and bystanders clear of the hazard area(s) as well as traffic control and to close nearby roadways.

## Scene Access

- Establish a staging area for incoming resources. Arriving technical rescue companies will require access as close as possible to the **HOT/WARM ZONE** interface. Other department vehicles and specialty equipment should be staged at the entrance to the **COLD ZONE**.

## Hazard Identification

- Heavy equipment
- Utilities in or around trench (types)
- Adjacent structures
- Spoil pile location
- Overhead obstructions

Obtaining the site plan/blueprint from the site foreman will prove beneficial to gathering critical information pertaining to the trench operations.

## Rescue, Medical, and Safety Actions

Assist injured workers or victims who may have escaped, who are not trapped but are injured or simply need a ladder for egress. Attempt this only if it is **SAFE to do so**.

- Never enter unshored trenches, no matter how safe it looks.
- Never use any motorized equipment to attempt a rescue.

## Request for Appropriate Resources

- Ensure that a technical rescue response has been dispatched and is enroute
- Adequate EMS response
- Appropriate utility companies contacted
- Virginia Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) contacted

This is a significant amount of information to gather in a short period of time, but all information gathered and relayed to the first arriving technical rescue company prior to its arrival is critical to the long-range planning and





successful mitigation of the incident.

If you would like to learn more about trench rescue, just check in your station library for a copy of James B. Gargan's book, *First Due Trench Rescue*. Please also feel free to contact Captain I Mike Runnels, Station 14, C-Shift, or Master Technician John Mayers, Station 21, C-Shift, with any further questions about trench operations.



### Trench Rescue Quiz Answer Key

1. No trench box or shoring in trench.
2. No ladders.
3. Spoil pile on trench lip closer than two feet.
4. Trac hoe on unstable footing.
5. Utility unsupported.
6. Machinery vibrations within 500 feet.
7. Machinery vibrations within 500 feet.
8. Scaffolding erected next to active trench operations.
9. Undermining new building foundation.

### How many unsafe practices do you see?



## Master Technician Douglas L. Emerson Presented Prestigious Onthank Award

Master Technician Douglas Emerson has been with the Fire and Rescue Department for over 25 years, 14 of which have been with the Inspections Branch of the Fire Prevention Division. As chairperson of the multi-agency task force to address the problem of residential hoarding, he has provided outstanding leadership and direction in dealing with this problem. A residential hoarder is a person who collects materials such as newspapers, food containers, and other items and finds it difficult to throw things away. This can pose significant safety risks to residents and

public safety workers. Master Technician Emerson established a standard and compassionate method for the Fire Marshal's Office to address this complicated issue, documenting this method in a procedural manual to assist others. His extensive research has also provided for better education and understanding of the legal issues involved and the appropriate resolutions, which may involve judicial intervention. Recently, he has developed and instructed a class on this topic for the Virginia Fire Protection Association. ❖

# Hot Shots



An abandoned house on 13801 Frying Pan Road was fully involved when firefighters arrived to find fire through the roof. The property is one of the last working dairy farms in Fairfax County.



Firefighters arrived on the scene to find fire showing from the rear of this three-story townhouse located at 7836 Marconi Court in Springfield. Fire investigators determined a discarded cigarette in a flowerpot on the balcony caused the fire, resulting in \$50,000 damage to the home.



One vehicle crashed into a tree on Walney Road. Firefighters extricated two patients that were medivaced to Fairfax Inova Hospital. Photo by Sheldon Levi (Photo 421)



Double Fatality . . . Three vehicles were involved in a crash on Route 50 and Alder Road in the Fair Oaks area. Personnel from Fire and Rescue Station 21 with police paramedics attempting intubation on one of the drivers. (Photo by Dick Ballinger)



Haz Mat . . . A gasoline tanker hit a fire hydrant at the intersection of Hummer Road and Gallows Road in Annandale puncturing the tanker causing it to lose fuel. Firefighters collected and transferred the leaking fuel to 55-gallon drums. A total of 350 gallons was recovered by the Fire and Rescue Department's hazardous materials personnel.



# In Remembrance of 9-11-2001





# Fire Officer's Seminar

*By Captain II Robert C. Dube  
Fire and Rescue Academy*

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, with support from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs, sponsored the annual Fire Officers Seminar on April 27-28, 2002. Held in the A-Level conference room at the Massey Building, this seminar was one of the best-attended and well-received seminars we have held for several years. The theme of this year's conference was "case studies and tactics" with several presentations over the two days. The case studies focused on recent firefighter fatalities and lessons learned.

Saturday started off with Deputy Chief Mike Smith, District of Columbia Fire and EMS Department, reviewing the Kennedy Street and Cheery Street LODD incidents that occurred in 1999 and 2000. In both cases, Chief Smith stated clearly what the failures were that led to the deaths. Things such as communication problems, the lack of accountability, and improper tactics set the stage for three firefighter fatalities and the most tragic part of this story was that in *both* cases there were no victims in the buildings.

After Chief Smith, I presented a short lecture on apparatus positioning. If there is one area I have observed over my 25-year career that we need to work on, that is it. To sum it up, let the priority position be taken by the truck and most everything else will fall in line. Don't let the closest water supply and your insistence on using

the front intake handcuff you into bad positioning.

Following my presentation was Assistant Chief James Schwartz, Arlington County Fire Department. He presented the fire response to the Pentagon. His class was from the perspective of the first arriving engine and the issues they had to deal with concerning unified command and control.

The day concluded with Captain I Tyrone Harrington, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, who gave an excellent class on garden apartment fires. His presentation outlined building construction features specific to garden apartment buildings and the tactics required to fight a fire in that environment. His presentation addressed both older style and new lightweight garden apartment buildings and the hidden hazards associated with each one.

Day two began with a case study of the Worcester cold storage building fire that claimed the lives of six Worcester firefighters on December 3, 1999. Chiefs McNamee and Giard gave a powerful presentation that covered in detail all of the firefighting and rescue activities that occurred that night. After hearing the facts, it was not hard to understand how the event happened. This was an example of firefighters doing what they do best, attempting to rescue citizens and then making a heroic attempt in rescuing their



*Deputy Chief's Walter Giard (left) and Mike McNamee of the Worcester Fire Department, Massachusetts, present the story of the cold storage building fire that claimed the lives of six Worcester firefighters December 3, 1999.*

# Large Loss Fire Investigations

<b>Date:</b> 5/02/02 <b>Box:</b> 2700 <b>Address:</b> 6357 Rolling Road <b>Type:</b> Commercial <b>Cause:</b> Accidental – Electrical <b>Value:</b> 500,000 <b>Loss:</b> 150,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 5/02/02 <b>Box:</b> 1304 <b>Address:</b> 1948 Kennedy Drive <b>Type:</b> Apartment <b>Cause:</b> Accidental – Candle <b>Value:</b> 381,000 <b>Loss:</b> 47,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 5/11/02 <b>Box:</b> 2201 <b>Address:</b> 7314 Essex Ave. <b>Type:</b> House <b>Cause:</b> Accidental - Kitchen <b>Value:</b> 227,620 <b>Loss:</b> 200,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 5/18/02 <b>Box:</b> 4206 <b>Address:</b> 431 Mill Street <b>Type:</b> Commercial <b>Cause:</b> Undetermined <b>Value:</b> 300,000 <b>Loss:</b> 50,000 <b>Status:</b> Inactive
<b>Date:</b> 5/26/02 <b>Box:</b> 2102 <b>Address:</b> 3806 Rugby Road <b>Type:</b> Shed <b>Cause:</b> Accidental – Lightning <b>Value:</b> 50,000 <b>Loss:</b> 50,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 5/27/02 <b>Box:</b> 4407 <b>Address:</b> 1412 Cuttermill Court <b>Type:</b> House <b>Cause:</b> Accidental – Linseed oil <b>Value:</b> 539,695 <b>Loss:</b> 162,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 5/29/02 <b>Box:</b> 2906 <b>Address:</b> 9325 Leesburg Pike <b>Type:</b> Vehicle <b>Cause:</b> Accidental – Electrical <b>Value:</b> 240,000 <b>Loss:</b> 100,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 6/18/02 <b>Box:</b> 2508 <b>Address:</b> 1612 Hunter Mill Road <b>Type:</b> House <b>Cause:</b> Incendiary – Fireworks <b>Value:</b> 115,120 <b>Loss:</b> 115,120 <b>Status:</b> Inactive
<b>Date:</b> 6/19/02 <b>Box:</b> 1503 <b>Address:</b> 4423 Tulip Tree Court <b>Type:</b> House <b>Cause:</b> Accidental – Lightning <b>Value:</b> 305,370 <b>Loss:</b> 100,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 6/19/02 <b>Box:</b> 4206 <b>Address:</b> 120 Maple Avenue East <b>Type:</b> Commercial <b>Cause:</b> Accidental – Electrical <b>Value:</b> 250,000 <b>Loss:</b> 125,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed

own. I cannot imagine having to stand, as Chief McNamee did, in the stairwell and refuse to allow anyone else to enter the building knowing there were several of our own missing and realizing they were in all likelihood gone.

The next presentation was delivered by Deputy Chief David Rohr, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, who reviewed the lessons learned from a near miss fire on Braddock Springs Road. This presentation reviewed several major topics including fires in lightweight garden apartments and lost firefighter incidents. Chief Rohr reviewed mistakes that were made from all levels in the organization to actions that can be taken to overcome similar circumstances at future incidents.

Deputy Chief Carl Maurice, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, was the next presenter and addressed lightweight construction and the

problems associated with these buildings. His presentation covered the hazards as they relate to firefighters and what personnel should be looking for to keep them out of trouble. He showed how lightweight construction can be hidden by external building features and how this can lure firefighters into a false sense of security which can be deadly.

The last presentation was delivered by Captain Todd Harms on a line of duty death that occurred on March 14, 2001, in Phoenix, Arizona. This case study was particularly frustrating because Firefighter Bret Tarver was found and seemingly rescued several times. This case proves we need to continually practice our firefighter down scenarios, follow the accountability procedures and pay attention to all activities on the fireground if we are assigned to the RIT function.

(continued on page 16)

# 3rd Annual Tim Harmon 5K Run/Walk for Hepatitis C Awareness

**O**n Saturday, June 15, 2002, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department personnel and their families and friends participated in the 3rd Annual Tim Harmon 5K Run/Walk.

Tim Harmon was the Director of Alcohol and Drug Services who subsequently lost his life in 1999 from complications relating to the hepatitis C virus (HCV). Last year Tim received the Onthank Award, the County's most prestigious award, for his commitment, compassion, and dedication to the recovering community.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department has nine firefighters diagnosed with the hepatitis C virus, one retired and the other eight are current employees.

The Surgeon General has deemed HCV as a public epidemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that one out of every 60 individuals are infected with HCV. This is three to four times greater than Americans infected with the HIV/AIDS virus. Individuals infected with the virus may be asymptomatic, without complications, for 20 to 30 years. Typically, nearly 80 to 85 percent of individuals infected with hepatitis C fail to clear the virus and will eventually develop chronic hepatitis.

Hepatitis C is viewed as an incurable disease at this time. The efficiency of combination drug therapy is dependent

upon the identified genotype and the liver disease stage of HCV. Although certain drug therapies exist, these treatments are not curative. HCV positive individuals are at risk for progression to liver cirrhosis and/or liver organ failure that may necessitate organ transplantation, which is a scarce commodity. Dr. Allan J. Morrison, Jr., the Department's contractual infectious disease physician, states, "Even with liver transplantation, the infection is not cured. Rather, the infection continues in a new organ that may deteriorate over time yet again."

Look for additional hepatitis C information in the next Line Copy. ♦



*One group of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department personnel, family, and friends that participated in the 3rd Annual Tim Harmon 5K Run/Walk. Front Row (left to right): Stephen Urban, Andy Breisch, Jeff Murray, and Kyle Neumann. Second Row: Lynn McConahy, Kevin Makely, Bob Sweeney, Ken Neumann, and Ralph Pisani. Third Row: Lori Biller, Tony Biller, Richard Smith, and Jason Neumann.*



# Firefighters' Fund

The shift or administrative section  
with the highest per capita  
attendance will be recognized with  
an award!



## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Retirement Celebration, Dinner, and Dance

R. David Paulison

U.S. Fire Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Fire  
Administration will be the guest speaker.

**Hyatt Fair Lakes**  
**12777 Fair Lakes Circle**  
**Fairfax, Virginia**  
**(703) 818-1234**

**Friday, November 1, 2002**

(B-Shift is working)

**6 p.m. - 11 p.m.**

**\$30 per person (Advance ticket sales only.)**

Entree: your choice of chicken, beef, or pasta.

Meal includes salad, entree, dessert, and coffee or herbal tea.

**All department personnel and retirees are invited. Dress is coat and tie.**  
**This is a great chance to get your shift together for a night of fun!**

Please respond before October 21, 2002

For additional information please call:

Jackie Lewis ..... (703) 246-3969

Call the Hyatt Fair Lakes Hotel at (703) 818-1234 to make overnight accommodations. Mention the Firefighters' Fund to get the reduced group rate of \$89 per night. If you plan to extend your stay at the hotel before Friday, November 1st or after Saturday night, November 2nd, please call Mr. Erik Mellenberg directly at (703) 653-6051 to make your reservation.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this reservation form with your check to:

**Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department**  
**Jackie Lewis**  
**Public Information & Life Safety Education**  
**4100 Chain Bridge Road**  
**Fairfax, Virginia 22030**

Will you be making reservations at the Hyatt Fair Lakes? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

(This information is requested to assist us in blocking adequate rooms at the special rate for your convenience.)

Please make check payable to: **Firefighters' Fund of Fairfax County**

Please indicate one entree choice per ticket purchase: **Chicken** \_\_\_\_\_ **Beef** \_\_\_\_\_ **Pasta** \_\_\_\_\_

Tickets: \$30 per person • Number of tickets you wish to purchase: \_\_\_\_\_ • Dollar amount of check enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(continued on page 12)

The RIT is a thankless job that nobody wants to do, but it is a position that must be filled and everyone must take it seriously. The worst thing you can do as a RIT is nothing at all, especially when your brother or sister firefighters get in trouble and you're prepared to go to their rescue.

The theme of this year's seminar was well received and this should be the same type of seminar we will be doing next year. There has already been preliminary discussions regarding a presentation of the

Fire Department of New York (FDNY's) response to the World Trade Towers incident, focusing on the response and the recovery efforts.

I would like to point out the outstanding effort by Captain I Dave Brooks and Anne Reynolds from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy. Both individuals put in a tremendous amount of time and effort to make this seminar successful and deserve most of the credit. If anyone has any suggestions to make next year's seminar better, please forward them to Captain Brooks or myself at the Academy. ♦

# Awards & Presentations

## *Firefighter of the Year*

Captain II Kevin L. Kincaid

## *Unit Citation*

Medic 426, C-Shift

Lieutenant James J. Masiello  
Lieutenant Edmond D. Monseur  
Firefighter Glenn W. Dressler

## *Certificate of Appreciation*

Firefighter Danny C. Doyle

## *Career Achievement Award*

Technician James A. Potter  
Technician David M. Gilmore  
Battalion Chief Robert E. Witherow  
Technician Wesley L. Gallahan  
Technician Andrew J. Hubert  
Technician Kurt A. Hoffman  
Technician Donald R. Moran  
Master Technician John C. Mayers  
Master Technician  
Jeffrey T. Wharton  
Captain II Edgar I. Burlingame Jr.  
Master Technician  
Thomas J. Griffin  
Master Technician Kent E. Watts  
Master Technician  
Dale W. Dommel

## *Safe Driving Awards*

### *Three Years*

Firefighter Shawn A. Summers  
Firefighter Danny C. Doyle  
Technician William D. Brinton  
Firefighter Michael L. Skeele  
Firefighter Rodney D. Snapp  
Technician Steve J. Hurst  
Firefighter Stacie L. Lawton  
Firefighter Clifford A. Watson  
Technician David W. Barlow

### *Six Years*

Master Technician Jeffrey S. Allen  
Lieutenant Wayne P. Smith  
Master Technician Paul S. Plaughter  
Technician David L. Taylor

## Top 10 Activity Report

### June/July 2002

Ambulance		Engine Company		Rescue Company	
Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls
A 408	399	E 422	514	R 421	323
A 413	397	E 411	510	R 418	301
A 409	374	E 404	507	R 426	258
A 410	346	E 413	506	R 401	231
A 430	345	E 410	502	R 411	201
A 436	308	E 429	499	R 419	160
A 428	304	E 401	488	R 439	158
A 438	292	E 421	471	R 414	145
A 411	287	E 408	467		
A 414	282	E 409	460		
Medic		Battalion Chiefs & EMS Captains		Ladder Company	
Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls	Unit	Calls
M 418	562	EMS5	310	T 429	284
M 426	456	EMS4	299	T 425	241
M 410	455	EMS3	293	T 408	217
M 422	442	EMS6	276	T 410	215
M 404	433	EMS2	257	T 422	210
M 417	424	EMS1	194	T 430	204
M 429	406	BC04	148	T 436	185
M 408	404	BC06	97	T 411	157
M 425	399	BC01	92	T 405	152
M 411	394	BC05	91	T 424	151

Unit activity is compiled from the event history file. A unit must be dispatched to a call to be included in an event history file. A unit add-on is not considered a dispatch. Mutual aid dispatches are included in the activity report.

Lieutenant Reginald K. Rodgers  
 Lieutenant Kenneth Wolfrey  
 Lieutenant Lisa M. McCauley  
 Firefighter William A. Sutphin  
 Lieutenant Linda R. Arnold  
 Lieutenant Matthew B. Nacy  
 Technician Rex E. Strickland  
 Master Technician  
 Matthew P. Ryan  
 Technician Ronald S. Pifer  
 Technician Sean T. Evans

### 15 Years Distinguished Driving

Technician Kurt A. Hoffman  
 Technician Wesley L. Gallahan  
 Technician William S. Keller  
 Master Technician  
 Jeffrey T. Wharton  
 Technician Thomas J. Griffin  
 Master Technician Kent E. Watts  
 Technician Anthony E. Doran  
 Technician Roderick J. Schmidt

### Citizen Valor Award

Mr. Sokkyum Kang  
 Miss Vannessa Paula

## "Taking UP"



Master Technician  
 Joseph G. Allison

**Entry Date:** May 17, 1971  
**Retirement Date:** July 26, 2002  
**Assignments:** Fire and Rescue  
 Station 10, 24, 22, 19, 20, 8, and  
 OPS6.

**Likes about the Fire Department:**  
 The people I worked with and  
 knowing that everyday brought a  
 new challenge.

### Will miss about the Fire

**Department:** Friendships I have  
 built over the last 31 years.

**Plans for the future:** Relax and do  
 whatever I want, I hope.

**Words of wisdom:** Pay attention to  
 what you are doing, it could save  
 your life and a co-workers.

**What got you interested in the fire  
 service?** Doing a job that had some  
 excitement in it.

**Who or what made an influence in  
 your career?** Battalion Chief Sonny  
 Nelson and Captain Richard Cronin.



Captain II  
 J. Scott Cullers

**Entry Date:** October 15, 1974  
**Retirement Date:** July 27, 2002  
**Assignments:** Fire and Rescue  
 Station 1, 2, 4, 13, 17, 34, and EMS4.

### Likes about the Fire Department:

The activity of running calls, having  
 great firefighters and medics that  
 worked for me that had a great work  
 ethic.

### Will miss about the Fire

**Department:** The cohesion of having  
 a great shift, the activity of  
 emergency incidents, the challenge  
 of handling any day to day problems  
 that may be thrown your way.

**Plans for the future:** Battalion Chief  
 for Loudoun County and full-time  
 teaching for college.

**Words of wisdom:** Your career will  
 go quicker than you can ever realize.  
 Savor each moment, strive to  
 increase your personal and  
 professional skills, and treat this as a  
 career, not just a job, and maintain a  
 positive work ethic that is  
 productive.

**What got you interested in the fire  
 service?** My starting as a volunteer  
 in Winchester.

**Who or what made an influence in  
 your career?** Mike Seabright, Jim  
 Anderson, John Kimball, Jack Akre,  
 Sonny Flynn, and Richard Steinberg.



Technician  
 Donald R. Moran

**Entry Date:** October 1, 1973  
**Retirement Date:** July 26, 2002  
**Assignments:** Fire and Rescue  
 Station 4, 15, 36, and 21.

### Likes about the Fire Department:

Helping people in need at their  
 worst time.

### Will miss about the Fire

**Department:** The next call, the  
 teamwork with great people under  
 any condition.

**Plans for the future:** Move to West  
 Virginia, buy a house on Kerr Lake.  
 Be with grandchildren more and  
 enjoy life more.

**Words of wisdom:** Believe in  
 yourself and your ability even if you  
 are not an officer.

**What got you interested in the fire  
 service?** Needed secure job for my  
 family.

**Who or what made an influence in  
 your career?** Freeland Young, Carol  
 Groff, Jack Billhimer, and Glenn  
 Gaines.



Lieutenant  
 Henry M. Skinker

**Entry Date:** February 22, 1971  
**Retirement Date:** July 15, 2002  
**Assignments:** Fire and Rescue  
 Station 22, Recruit School, 10, 4, 25,  
 21, 30, and 5.



**Likes about the Fire Department:**

Helping people, that's the basic driving force (goal), the benefits are numerous – like constantly learning (training), applying the learning to situations (planning), working with people (teamwork), depending on people, and equipment (trust).

**Will miss about the Fire**

**Department:** The people I have worked with, the thoughts, planning, and nervous anticipation I have while responding to calls.

**Plans for the future:** Spend a lot more time with family so I can enjoy some of what I've missed over the years.

**Words of wisdom:** Do not become complacent – always try to better yourself, the scrap of knowledge you learn along the way may save your life and others, and continue to learn and review.

**What got you interested in the fire service?** The fire department in my hometown of Marshall, Virginia.

**Who or what made an influence in your career?** Thanks to Chief Larry Johnson, Chief Jeffrey Coffman, Captain II Dave Shiff, Captain II Mike Godbout, Lieutenant Ron Smith, Lieutenant Clyde Coble, Lieutenant Chuck Adams, Technician Doug Butler, and Firefighter Charlie Green. Two major events: Hurricane Agness and the Skyline Center collapse. They made me realize early in this job anything can happen at any time, and it was proven over and over again in thirty some years.



**Lieutenant  
Edward C. Snyder**

**Entry Date:** January 3, 1977  
**Retirement Date:** May 31, 2002

**Assignments:** Fire and Rescue Station 11, 8, 14, 18, 21, and 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Relief.

**Likes about the Fire Department:** I appreciate the opportunity to have been in service to my fellow man and community.

**Will miss about the Fire**

**Department:** Comradeship and the sense of accomplishment and teamwork after a "cut-job" that can only be experienced in the fire department.

**Plans for the future:** Play! Hike, bike, piping, camping, woodcarving, and running the Firefighter's Emerald Society Pipe Band.

**Words of wisdom:** I know some will laugh when I say this but don't take things so seriously. Keep safe and remember, it's their emergency, not ours.

**What got you interested in the fire service?** My grandfather who was a forest ranger and a volunteer firefighter in Pennsylvania while attending college.

**Who or what made an influence in your career?** Ron Mastin, Terry Hall, and Hugh Wood.



**Technician  
James E. Watson**

**Entry Date:** September 3, 1974  
**Retirement Date:** May 31, 2002  
**Assignments:** Fire and Rescue Station 21, 15, 29, 31, 12, 29, 13, 28, 10, 29, 13, 29, and OPS6, C-Shift.

**Likes about the Fire Department:** Shift work (the ten days per month thing), the people, and being able to help others.

**Will miss about the Fire**

**Department:** The people (my many friends), doing a job I love so much.

**Plans for the future:** Nothing to start with, but plan to find something in the fall. I see no reason to start working for a living at this stage in my life.

**Words of wisdom:** In order to do this job the way it should be done, you need to love it. If you don't perhaps you should try another line of work.

**What got you interested in the fire service?** Being a volunteer in my hometown. Following others to Fairfax (Dewey Perks, Frank Markstrom, and Jimmy Jennings).

**Who or what made an influence in your career?** James Myers (first captain), John Gleske. EMS side: Bob Witherow, Paul Nichols, and Geoff McNamara.



**Battalion Chief  
Thomas B. Watson**

**Entry Date:** November 4, 1968  
**Retirement Date:** July 26, 2002  
**Assignments:** Fire and Rescue Station 12, 10, 17, 13, 2, BC02, BC07, BC403, Relief, and Resource Management.

**Likes about the Fire Department:** That this department is one of the best in the nation.

**Will miss about the Fire**

**Department:** Dinner with the shift.

**Plans for the future:** Help my son and daughter fix up their old houses. Sit along the riverbank in the shade with a cold one.

**Words of wisdom:** Even a fish would not get in trouble if he keeps his mouth shut.

**What got you interested in the fire service?** My dad was a volunteer and he would take me to the fire house when I was little.

**Who or what made an influence in your career?** Buddy Allen and Gene Gray.

# Retirements Anniversaries

Joseph G. Allison  
May 17, 1971 - July 26, 2002

Barry A. Anderson  
September 29, 1972 - July 26, 2002

Joseph W. Beavers  
August 21, 1972 - August 21, 2002

Jeffery S. Cullers  
October 15, 1974 - July 27, 2002

William R. Evans  
August 21, 1972 - July 19, 2002

Dennis W. Groves  
July 17, 1978 - August 10, 2002

James S. Lawson  
October 15, 1974 - July 13, 2002

Clark O. Martin, Jr.  
October 1, 1973- August 9, 2002

Donald R. Moran  
October 1, 1973 - July 26, 2002

Christopher M. Peterson  
January 3, 1977 - July 26, 2002

Richard A. Pettey  
January 3, 1977 - July 26, 2002

Henry M. Skinker  
February 22, 1971 - July 15, 2002

Lawrence A. Skube  
July 26, 1982 - July 26, 2002

Derrick A. Smith  
February 12, 1979 - August 28, 2002

Richard M. Smith  
December 10, 1973 - July 18, 2002

Robert J. Spoone  
February 22, 1972 - July 15, 2002

Thomas B. Watson  
November 4, 1968 - July 26, 2002

Roger D. Wilson  
July 3, 1967 - July 26, 2002

Kenneth P. Winkelvoss  
June 14, 1971 - July 13, 2002

## 5 Years

Firefighter Keith Baughan  
Firefighter Raymond K. Beaver, Jr.  
Technician Mark G. Briskey  
Firefighter Rebecca R. Brummond  
Technician Robert A. Clarke  
Firefighter Jaemohn D. Cloyd  
Richard P. Daniele  
Erick F. Davila  
Technician Michael J. Fischer  
Firefighter David S. Gaertner  
Lieutenant Sheryl L. Hemingway  
Technician Charles C. Henderson  
Technician Dennis M. Kotecki  
Firefighter Rolf F. Lenzsch, Jr.  
Technician Thomas R. Mayhew  
Firefighter John P. McGee  
Technician Christopher M. Morgan  
Lieutenant John E. Peters  
Firefighter Richard G. Peterson  
Firefighter Scott F. Primrose  
Firefighter Livingston J. Rolle  
Firefighter George H. Samartino  
Technician Cheryl L. Sherin  
Technician John A. Smith  
Technician John W. Streeter  
Technician Daniel R. Thompson

## 10 Years

Donald R. Melick, Instructor III

## 15 Years

Firefighter Gordon E. Bennett  
Lieutenant George L. Diaz  
Firefighter Mark D. Franklin  
Lieutenant Anthony L. Jackson  
Jacqueline B. Lewis  
Publications Assistant  
Lieutenant Daniel T. Young

## 20 Years

Lieutenant Pete J. Bendo  
Captain I Gavin D. Bourjaily  
Technician Robert M. Downing  
Captain II James T. Ghi  
Captain II Charles R. Hawkins  
Captain II James L. Hedrick  
Technician George M. Hoff  
Captain I Michael B. Keys  
Master Technician  
Joseph M. Kratochvil  
Lieutenant Matthew P. Malof  
Master Technician John C. Mayers, Jr.  
Lieutenant Patrick J. Morrison  
Firefighter Michael R. Ortmann  
Captain I Milton L. Painter

Captain I Richard C. Smith  
Firefighter Dennis Thompson  
Captain I Glenn F. Tschann  
Master Technician Gary W. Vozzola  
Captain I Paul L. White  
Lieutenant Austin T. Woodcock

## 25 Years

Robert F. Arrington, Jr., Automotive  
Mechanic II  
Deputy Chief Jeffrey B. Coffman  
Lieutenant Michael P. Graham  
Technician John J. Loss  
Technician Michael D. Macario  
Captain II Gerald A. Pfeifer  
Battalion Chief Robert E. Witherow

## 30 Years

Lieutenant Joseph W. Beavers  
Technician Thomas C. Cooke  
Lieutenant Alan N. Cusic  
Captain I Dennis L. Michaliga

# New Hires

Firefighter Michael R. Boub, Jr.  
Firefighter Hugh C. Clarke  
Firefighter Felicia N. Cooksey  
Firefighter Yolanda Covington  
Firefighter Mark J. Deyneka  
Firefighter Scott A. Dixon  
Firefighter Michael E. Duffy  
Firefighter Lawrence L. Ellison  
Firefighter Jeanette Hannibal  
Firefighter Joel J. Kobersteen  
Firefighter Mark E. Kordalski  
Donald H. Layman  
Automotive Parts Specialist II  
Firefighter Michael S. Lee  
Kelly J. Lehman  
Management Analyst III  
Firefighter Luis A. Mata  
Firefighter Jeffrey J. Menago  
Firefighter Douglas L. Miller  
Firefighter Kenneth M. Nesmith  
Firefighter Miguel Obleas  
Firefighter Stephen J. Painter  
Kyong N. Pham,  
Business Analyst I  
Firefighter James S. Pinkney III  
Firefighter Christopher Sampl  
Firefighter Daniel M. Sova  
Firefighter Spencer L. Spinner  
Firefighter Jeffrey D. Tubaugh  
Firefighter Robert E. Wells  
Tina T. McCoy  
Administrative Assistant I



## Station Profile

### West Springfield Fire and Rescue Station #27

**Captain II**  
**Gary W. Winemiller**  
Station Commander

**Station constructed:** January 15, 1976. Station currently under renovation with a target completion date of March 2003.

**Station specialty:** Engine Company and ALS medic unit

**Square miles in first due area:** 6.7

**Specific hazardous/target areas:** Ravensworth Station, Washington Gas Mine storage facility and Railroad off loading station, and Verizon switching station.

**Total calls in 2001:** 3,510

**Equipment assigned to station:** Engine, medic, and medic reserve.

**Station personnel:** **A-Shift:** Captain I Mark Guditus, Lieutenant Eric F. Cunningham, Lieutenant Timothy R. Jeter, Master Technician Bradford A. Cochrane, Technician Robert M. Downing, Firefighter Kyle B. Anderson, and Firefighter William S. Lynch. **B-Shift:** Captain I Paul L. White, Lieutenant Reginald K. Rodgers, Lieutenant Kenny J. Wolfrey, Master Technician Ronnie A. Rodriguez, Technician Linwood M. Frye, Firefighter Khalil B. Abdul-Rasheed, and Firefighter Stephen M. Shapiro. **C-Shift:** Captain II Gary W. Winemiller, Lieutenant Edward G. Dodson, Lieutenant Gareth R. Hilton, Master Technician Kevin T. Slack, Technician Louis J. Berkeszi, Firefighter Michael J. Buckley, and Firefighter Alexander C. Obert.

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## Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department

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4100 Chain Bridge Road  
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